

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A maintenance apparatus is used for maintaining an ink jet head which ejects ink supplied via an ink supply path, as ink droplets from a plurality of  
5 orifices arranged in an orifice plate. The apparatus comprises a pressure control section which controls the pressure in the ink supply path against the atmospheric pressure applied to a surface of the ink to push ink out of each orifice and then align the surface of the  
10 ink to a surface of the orifice plate, and an ink suction section which sucks ink near each orifice in a state where the ink surface is approximately aligned to the surface of the orifice plate by the pressure control section.